

Learning module 2

Washington's Orders.

Objective: Students will examine primary source materials and engage in a model hut building exercise.

Directions: In the second Learning module, students will work as a small group in making decisions and fostering discussion; however, each student must remember that he/she is also moving through the steps of the module from the perspective of an individual Continental soldier who is ultimately assessing his/her ability to successfully “survive and thrive” while encamped at Valley Forge.

Step A. Primary source readings.

Primary Source- primary sources of information are those that provide first-hand accounts of the events, practices, or conditions... In general, these are documents that were created by the witnesses or first recorders of these events at about the time they occurred...

(<http://www.library.illinois.edu/village/primarysource/mod1/pg2.htm>)

Students will actively read the primary source text- this can be done individually or as a whole group. After they read, students should complete the assigned graphic task while utilizing the text.

Once students have completed the reading text and the graphic task, they may award themselves up to **5 Survival Points** on their Survival Rubric based on the quality of their work.

Step B. Hut Building Exercise.

It is one thing to be told that you must build a hut in which you will live for the winter with 11 other men, but it is certainly another thing to actually complete this task! Your group of soldiers has been provided the following materials by your teacher: 1 lump of clay, 20 wooden popsicle sticks, 1 piece of white construction paper, and 20 plastic straws...nope, no glue included!

You and your fellow Continental soldiers must use the materials listed to build your hut in which you will live in during the winter encampment. General Washington has given the army VERY specific orders, thus you must use the required sizes and shapes. Remember that your supplies are limited and cannot simply be replenished at a store...there was no 18th Century Home Depot! You are encouraged to work together to complete this process.

If you successfully complete your hut you may award yourself up to **5 Survival Points** on your Survival Rubric.

Extension Activities

FOCUS ON: VALLEY FORGE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG

The link below will bring you to a terrific exploration of an actual archaeological dig at Valley Forge National Historic Park back in 2000:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/logcabin/html/vf.html>

NPS Ranger Interpreter Explains How a Hut is Built

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT2AUVOaHqs&feature=BFa&list=UUG2PLNkebRAe5HOXi-0aKnw>

Primary Source Text

Washington's Orders

Read the following from General George Washington's orders to his troops about building log huts in the winter of 1777:

"The soldiers were to be formed into twelve-man squads, each charged with building its own hut. These shelters were to be made of logs chinked with clay, and were to be six and a half feet high, fourteen feet wide, and sixteen feet long. They were to be aligned along company streets, with doors (made of boards, if available, otherwise of split-oak slabs) facing the street. There would be a fireplace in the rear, made of wood and "secured" with clay. Behind the enlisted men's huts was to be a line of huts for officers. These were to be of the same design and dimensions; but instead of twelve men, each would house the officers of two companies (six to eight men), the three field officers (major through colonel) of a regiment, the members of a brigade staff, or one general officer."(*G. Washington. The Writings of George Washington: From the original Sources 1745-1799. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934.*)

Directions- Your graphic task is to take the information provided in the primary source document and transfer it into an artistic sketch of the encampment. Ask yourself: what does this encampment look like based on the information provided in General Washington's orders? Use the outlined space below to complete your work.

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an artistic sketch of the encampment described in the text.

